

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 152

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor the late Volena Christmas Lewis on her induction into the Harriman Care and Rehab Center Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person was the late Volena “Tootsie” Christmas Lewis, who was recently inducted into the Harriman Care and Rehab Center Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, born in Harriman on August 1, 1917, Tootsie Lewis was the second of six children born to James David and Elsie Mae Jenkins Christmas; and

WHEREAS, a born humanitarian, even as a young child in Roane County, Ms. Lewis improved the well-being of her sisters and brothers, frequently doing their chores along with her own; and

WHEREAS, throughout her long life, she promoted the welfare of her relatives and friends, regardless of whether she herself was in good health or not; and

WHEREAS, Tootsie Lewis believed that life should be an adventure, and her life was a testimony of this mentality; during her ninety-one years she served in the United States Navy during World War II, worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory during the Manhattan Project, and worked for her father’s lumber company; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Tootsie Lewis served on the Roane County Election Commission and was a lifelong member of Walnut Hill Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a woman devoted to her family and having fun, she owned and rode a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, piloted light aircrafts, raised one son, and spent time with her beloved grandson and numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2008, Tootsie Lewis died in Harriman, the same town in which she was born; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis left behind a legacy, through her stories, jokes, laughter, positive thinking, and phenomenal amount of determination, that is an inspiration to everyone who knew her; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to pause in its deliberations to pay respectful tribute to the late Tootsie Lewis for her many contributions to this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Volena "Tootsie" Christmas Lewis, reflecting on her commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and applaud her recent induction into the Harriman Care and Rehab Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.